



# *Celebrating Success*

October/November 2019



**UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM**

**CHECK OUT  
OUR AWARD  
WINNERS ON  
PAGES 8-13**

# Vice-Chancellor's *view*

We have started this year on another high. We are celebrating record research awards, having won £215.5 million of grants in 2018–19 – an increase of 50% over the past three years. A stunning achievement by the University.

Student recruitment into the University, reflecting our standing and popularity, was again very strong. We planned to meet, and not to exceed, our home undergraduate target: this we did. Interestingly, in the couple of hours that we were in Clearing, we accepted some students that performed outstandingly in their A levels that wanted to transfer their place to Birmingham – another affirmation of our standing. Our international undergraduate recruitment is at record levels, as is our international postgraduate taught recruitment. While other universities struggle to meet their

targets, or do so only by reducing the quality of their intake, we are able to attract outstanding students in very large numbers. It is particularly pleasing to report the record number of students who will be joining us through our Access to Birmingham (A2B) and other outreach schemes. We know these are students with outstanding potential who go on to perform exceptionally well on their chosen undergraduate programmes. We pioneered access programmes and have been committed to them not because we have been told to, but because we believe in them, for two decades. The fruits of this sustained commitment to access are the opportunities we can extend to young people of real ability.

Why, then, some might ask, if the University is so successful does it need to launch a new fundraising campaign? We are, in fact, doing so precisely because we are successful. Campaigns are not about making good deficits – people don't give to make up for lost government funding, nor, in the main, do they give to poorly performing institutions. People give because they want to make a difference to causes that matter to them personally and to the world in which we all live – universities are uniquely placed to make that difference. People give because they are committed to the vision of the University, because they want to partner with the University, and because they want to invest and share in our success.

If we put our university in a global context, we are competing against universities with vastly greater resources. The endowment of Harvard is moving towards \$40 billion. Stanford has capitalised on the success of Silicon Valley. Many state universities in the US have built up substantial endowments, even in the last 20 years. We compete against these universities.

Australian universities are running campaigns to raise more than AUD\$1 billion. Chinese universities are benefiting from enormous government investments. Universities in Singapore are very generously supported by their government and equally supported by philanthropists. The same is true in Hong Kong. Closer to home, if you look at the position of universities in the so-called golden triangle (Oxbridge and



Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir David Eastwood

London) they either have, or are embarking on, campaigns with targets at or above £1 billion.

So the University's new campaign is timely, critically important, and hugely exciting. You may now have seen details of Birmingham in Action – I know that everyone who has seen the presentations has been energised and inspired. The shaping of the campaign has been brilliantly conceived by our colleagues in DARO.

Our previous campaign, Circles of Influence, was a huge success. When it closed just short of £200 million it was the most successful university campaign outside the golden triangle, and the most successful philanthropic campaign ever in the West Midlands. Birmingham in Action will build on this but will be different in a number of ways.

Birmingham in Action will be deeply rooted in the University, so much of what we do will be reflected in the campaign. From youth mental health to cancer research, environmental challenges to our access scholarships, and so much more. This campaign will have a breadth and a depth which reflects a university of our scale and our ambition. Moreover, it will be a campaign around giving and contributing in the widest sense. We have an ambitious fundraising target. We also have an ambition to mobilise 1 million volunteer hours from our alumni, staff and students – the largest volunteering campaign by any UK university. Put these things together and we really will see Birmingham in Action.

This University was founded on philanthropy. Much of the land on which the University estate was built was gifted by the Calthorpe family. Look at the donor board in the Great Hall and you will see the

## Date for the diary

**Birmingham Professional Forum**  
Tuesday 19 November,  
11.00am–12noon,  
The Bramall.

All staff are invited to the forum, which is introduced by the Registrar and Secretary, Lee Sanders. The agenda will follow closer to the event.

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donors of the University. These generous gifts were complemented by numerous smaller gifts from right across the city. This city wanted its university, and from its leaders and some of its richest families through to the ordinary people of Birmingham they contributed, with deep generosity, to the establishment of the University.

In recent years, thanks to the generosity of many, and the example of some extraordinary philanthropists, we have rediscovered that tradition of philanthropy. So much of what we are doing from BiFoR, through the refurbishment of the Lapworth, to the iconic Bramall and Alan Walters buildings, these and so much more were only possible because of the vision and generosity of donors.

My sincere hope is that Birmingham in Action will reach and mobilise the whole University. Those of us who can will give, and give to aspects of the University's work which are particularly important to us. Others will volunteer and will make a transformational contribution through their time and service. And what I believe will be resonant in Birmingham will resonate throughout the wider University of Birmingham family. In October, we are launching the campaign in Birmingham, London, Hong Kong, New York, and San Francisco. As the campaign momentum builds we will hold some events in other parts of the world. It will be a global campaign for a global university. When we close we will have opened yet another chapter in the history of the University.

*Vice-Chancellor,*  
**Professor Sir David Eastwood**

## WOMEN'S NETWORK – JOIN US!

It's going to be a busy autumn for the University's Women's Network. With events from Book Club to Inspiring Women Workshops, there is something for all colleagues, regardless of gender expression or identity. Inspired by Black History Month, the next Book Club on **Tuesday 8 October** will be on **'Why I'm No Longer Talking To White People About Race'** by Reni Eddo-Lodge.

If you would like more information about this or any other event, please email [womens-network@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:womens-network@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## Making IT Simple

The IT Service Portal's had a makeover for the start of the academic year. We're making it easier for you to find the technical information and help you need by rebuilding the portal from the ground up. You'll experience improved self-service function and more accessible content.

The new-look Service Portal isn't the only change you'll see from IT Services. Our new feedback process will help you let us know how we can better help you. Your suggestions and ideas support ever-evolving portal and service improvements, designed with you in mind.

When you log a fault, we say it may take up to ten days to fix but in 85% of cases, it takes less than five. In other, more complicated, cases it may take longer. So we're making changes to our service standards too. Visit the IT Services Intranet for more information and to sign up for our newsletter.

## In Memory

**Professor Roy Johnston** from the School of Chemistry has sadly recently passed away after a long illness at the age of 58.

Roy was a stalwart of Chemistry at Birmingham and his name suffuses the School. He was a great, world-leading scientist, a good listener, generous with his time and passionate about helping others.

The extent and quality of his various collaborations, and the warmth of feeling associated with him is a testament to this. He occupied numerous leadership roles, keen to re-invest his experience back into the School, College and University.

He will be remembered for his quiet, dignified manner, his gentle and precise reasoning, his warmth, his love of cricket, history, cryptic crosswords, and the legendary annual student and staff BBQ he and his wife Suzanne hosted. Our lovely colleague, teacher, leader and friend will be missed.

Donations in memory of Roy can be made to Birmingham St Mary's Hospice.



## YOUR BUZZ

Next edition 5 December 2019  
Copy deadline 6 November 2019

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Views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the University or a statement of University policy. All submissions may be subject to editing. The Editor's decision is final.

Front cover image: Celebrating Success

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# THE FUTURE OF SOCIETY

2–9 NOVEMBER 2019



Society is rapidly changing how we communicate with each other, the jobs we do, the places we live, and how we access healthcare. With these changes, on top of a shifting political landscape, what is in store for the future?

Hosted by the University of Birmingham, The Future of Society will take place between Saturday 2–Saturday 9 November 2019. In a celebration of how our pioneering social, economic and political research impacts everyday life, the festival showcases how our future may be shaped through a selection of engaging events focusing on the following themes:

- Cities
- Culture
- Democracy
- Education and Leadership
- Family
- Food and Health
- The Workplace

The week will see a host of free opportunities including talks and debates from leading academics in their fields, exhibitions showcasing work from local communities, and an intergalactic musical experience to awaken the force within you.

The Future of Society is open to all ages and interests, whether you're studying the subject at school, a leading researcher, or you just want to find out more. With events taking place across Birmingham as well as on the University campus, join us for an exciting week as we celebrate some of Birmingham's most innovative research.

## LEARN MORE

If you would like to find out more about the Future of Society festival and register for events, please visit: [www.birmingham.ac.uk/future-festival-2019](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/future-festival-2019)

### Event Highlight #1

## LIVING WITH AND THROUGH FOOD POVERTY

**Monday 2 November, 3.00–4.30pm, Birmingham Centre for Voluntary Action**

Over one-in-five people in the UK are now living in poverty. Consequently, emergency food aid usage continues to rise. Hosted by Dr Caroline Moraes, this event will shed light on those accessing emergency food and their experiences of living in food poverty. There will be a short screening and discussion of a scene from the film *I, Daniel Blake*, and a panel discussion. Food and toiletry donation boxes will be available during the event.

### Event Highlight #2

## BIRMINGHAM STRIKES BACK

**Wednesday 6 November, 6.00–8.00pm, The Bramall**

*'In a dark place we find ourselves, and a little more knowledge lights our way.'*

A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away, one of the most successful film franchises of all time was born. In celebration of the release of the latest Star Wars film, this event will see an evening of music and short talks on the themes that are explored in Star Wars. Hosted by Professor Paul Jackson, Birmingham Strikes Back will bring together like-minded individuals with an appreciation for the Star Wars series. May the force be with you.



## ONE YEAR ON: EDGBASTON PARK HOTEL CELEBRATES ITS BIRTHDAY



THE UNIVERSITY'S HOTEL AND CONFERENCE CENTRE HAS NOW BEEN OPEN FOR A FULL YEAR. SO HOW DID THE FIRST 365 DAYS GO?

General Manager Richard Metcalfe has nothing but enthusiasm. *'It's been an incredible first year for the hotel. We've had such a variety of people through the doors: people here for business or an academic conference, University staff, families of prospective students, leisure travellers, wedding guests, Christmas partygoers, visitors to the 1900 restaurant and the gin bar – even a few dogs, since we're a pet-friendly hotel!'*

*'We've brought two beautiful old buildings back into use with the restoration of Hornton Grange and Garth House, along with their landscaped gardens. Add in the new buildings, and we're offering a totally unique mix: contemporary hi-spec spaces and bedrooms, alongside venues with a more traditional, period feel. It means the University can attract those big academic conferences – so essential to research – while also offering something special for the local community too.'*

*'I couldn't be prouder of the place, or the team that makes it all happen. We took home the CUBO award for Team of the Year in July, and there's no better motivation to keep aiming higher. If you haven't been to see us yet, don't wait another year!'*

### WHAT NEXT?

Sustainability is top of the agenda. The hotel has signed up to the Meetings Industry Association's Plastic Pledge, and has committed to eliminate all single-use plastics by May 2023.

Another innovation for the hotel's second year: a different approach to conferences across campus. In the past year, the hotel has welcomed a range of large academic conferences: the International Research Network Conference, the Legal Practitioners' Conference, UKRO and many more.

Director of Conferencing and Marketing, Malene Stanley, said: *'It's wonderful that the University can now offer accommodation for those who want the hotel experience, and new flexible meeting spaces too.'*

*'One thing we've learned this year, however, is that the range of options can be confusing. We're making it simple. If you're booking a leisure stay, of course contact the hotel. But for all conferences and events, the conferences team will manage it all – whether you're hoping to book the hotel, a campus venue like the Great Hall or Staff House, or a combination as was used for HEFi19.'*

Edgbaston Park Hotel provides 185 additional hotel bedrooms on campus, and 11 meeting rooms with capacity for two to 350 delegates. The 1900 restaurant and lounge bar serve everything from light bar meals and cocktails to afternoon tea and steak from the grill, cooked to your taste.

### DID YOU KNOW?

University staff can access a preferential bed and breakfast rate by booking with their University email address. There's also a Friends of the University discount, ideal if you're welcoming visitors or colleagues from another institution. Visit [intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/has/edgbaston-park-hotel/Staff-discounts-on-hotel-stays.aspx](http://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/has/edgbaston-park-hotel/Staff-discounts-on-hotel-stays.aspx) to find out more.

For conference bookings, call 0121 415 8400. For all other hotel enquiries, contact Edgbaston Park Hotel: 0121 414 8888 or [enquiries@edgbastonparkhotel.com](mailto:enquiries@edgbastonparkhotel.com).

# BIRMINGHAM ACTION

Birmingham In Action is the University's ambitious new fundraising and volunteering campaign which, when it launches in October 2019, will be the largest fundraising campaign ever undertaken in the Midlands. It is a University-wide campaign, bringing together the entire institutional community of staff, students and alumni in support of many of the University's most charitable activities. Together, we will create educational opportunities for those who would otherwise miss out, harness our research excellence to change lives and use the expertise of our volunteers to support those most in need.

## Why we are taking action

The campaign aims to transform lives for our generation and the next by tackling the world's biggest challenges, today. These challenges include:



**NO LIMITS BIRMINGHAM**  
Everyone getting an education  
Only one-in-six pupils who need free school meals go on to university.



**BIRMINGHAM OUR ENVIRONMENT**  
Protecting our planet  
A 2017 study found microplastics in 83% of tap water samples collected from around the world. (NY Times, April 2019)



**BIRMINGHAM CANCER WARDS**  
Treating and preventing cancer  
One-in-two people in the UK will get cancer in their lifetime. (CRUK, 2018)



**BIRMINGHAM MIND**  
Improving young people's mental health  
75% of all mental health problems are established by the time someone is 18. (The Children's Society, 2019)



**BIRMINGHAM SOLIDARITY**  
Helping families fleeing violence, war and famine  
One person is forcibly displaced every two seconds as a result of conflict or persecution. Over half of these are under the age of 18. (UNHCR, 2019)

## JOIN IN

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/action](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/action)



@Birminghamalum  
#JoinIn #Birminghamaction



## Taking action for our students

Birmingham In Action showcases the many ways students can benefit from giving in all its forms. Mentoring and internships offered by our alumni will improve their graduate employability prospects. Funding from our Alumni Impact Fund for Students will provide new opportunities and improve the student experience. We need your support to spread the word so that more students are aware of the life-changing opportunities that are on offer to them as a result of the campaign. Activity runs throughout the year for all students across the campus – please visit the campaign website for more information.

### Moz's story

'My parents had never been to university and aren't in professional jobs so it was difficult to get advice from home about careers and university. My mentor advised and supported me throughout my university experience. I would say that if it wasn't for this support, I wouldn't be ready for my next step.'



## Taking action for our local community

As the UK's first civic university, we recognise the positive impact of volunteering on our local communities. We know that staff at the University already volunteer many hours in support of those in need whether this be acting as school governors, helping charities or taking part in Junk Busters. We want to celebrate this volunteering, alongside the time given by alumni and students, through the Birmingham In Action campaign. From today, all University staff will be entitled to a volunteering allowance of one day each year to volunteer locally. Whilst the hours given will form part of the campaign, this allowance is part of the University's wider commitment to both the professional development of our staff and our civic responsibilities to our city and region.

'We are delighted to be able to offer colleagues one day each year to volunteer locally. As a signatory of the Civic University Agreement, this initiative recognises the valuable role that volunteering can play in supporting the communities in which our staff live and work.'

Lee Sanders, Registrar and Secretary

If you would like to make a difference to a young person like Moz, you can sign up to be a mentor now.

Or if you would like to find out more about staff volunteering and get involved, visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/action/volunteer](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/action/volunteer) for more details.

# Celebrating SUCCESS 2019

We often write about the University's achievements; from our position in league tables and the impact of research to the development of our campuses. However, these achievements, of which we are rightly proud, are only made possible because of the extraordinary efforts and talent of our people.

This year, our research income reached record levels, the Green Heart and Collaborative Teaching Laboratory were both formally opened, and our first students have graduated in Dubai, all in unusually challenging times for the sector and all only possible because of the dedicated staff that make up this great institution.

We place a significant emphasis on recognising and celebrating this excellence internally through our Founders'

Awards, the Outstanding Teaching Awards, the HAS Oscars and the Birmingham University Awards for Tremendous Achievement (BUAFTAs). In this annual *Buzz* supplement, we highlight just some of the ways our colleagues across the University have been recognised this year.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank colleagues for their continued commitment to the University and look forward to the years ahead in which we will celebrate many more achievements.

**Professor Sir David Eastwood**  
Vice-Chancellor



## HONOURS AND AWARDS 2018–19

The outstanding achievements of our staff and alumni have been recognised once again by the honours system.

### NEW YEAR HONOURS

Three staff received honours for their work at the University this year. **Dr Jagbir Jhutti-Johal**, Senior Lecturer in Sikh Studies received an OBE for services to Higher Education, Faith Communities and the Voluntary Sector. **Dr Malcolm Dick**, Lecturer in Regional and Local History and Director in the Centre for West Midlands History, received an OBE for services to History in the West Midlands and **Gail Rothnie**, Head of Outreach, received an MBE for services to Widening Participation in Higher Education.

### HONOURS FOR OUR SPORTS STARS

**Bill Slater CBE**, the University's Director of Physical Education between 1972 and 1984 was inducted posthumously into British University & Colleges Sport (BUCS)'s Centenary Hall of Fame at St James's Palace in June 2019. The award was received by his daughter, Birmingham

alumna and Director of BBC Sport, Barbara Slater. Bill captained Wolves the last time they won the FA Cup in 1960 (as a semi-professional), played in the GB football team in the 1954 Olympics, and won 12 caps for England. Bill played many other influential roles in sport including the Sports Council's full-time Head of Sports Development, managing the British Universities football squad for ten years, and being President of British Gymnastics from 1989–99.

He received an OBE in 1982, and a CBE in 1998. The Slater family have their roots at the University of Birmingham, hence the facility within the new Sport & Fitness club is named after Bill and Barbara. Bill passed away in December last year.

The BUCS Hall of Fame recognises those who have achieved a notable distinction in or for university sport – of which there are currently only eight people, including Dame Jess Ennis-Hill and Sir Roger Bannister.

**ALTA sports club** was honoured with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the highest award a voluntary group can receive in the UK. The club supports disabled swimmers from the local community to participate in recreational and coached swimming sessions here at Sport & Fitness. Formed in the mid-1970s by members of teaching staff in physical education, including Club President Charles Jenkins and Vice-Chancellor Edward Marsland, its aim was to promote sport, wellbeing and health for disabled members of the community. The group used the Munrow Sports Centre for over 40 years, providing pool sessions and a selection of dry sport activities on a Sunday afternoon.

Almost half a century later, the group has transferred to the new Sport & Fitness 50-metre pool for its Sunday afternoon sessions, enabling them to host over 40 members in a facility which has been purpose-designed to be accessible to a wide range of disabilities.





## TOP TEAM

Staff from the **Edgbaston Park Hotel** won Team of the Year at the College and University Business Officers Awards 2019, an award for working over and above expectations in their work to develop a commercial business in the university environment.

The winning team is led by General Manager **Richard Metcalfe**, who said: *'I am so proud of the team here at the Edgbaston Park Hotel. Building a hotel's business from scratch is no mean feat, and they really have put in the effort and the hours in this last year. I'd like to congratulate them all, and thank CUBO for this award.'*

## CORPORATE CONNECTIONS

In January 2019, **Gurmit Kler**, Director of Business Engagement, was appointed to the UK board of PraxisAuril, an association promoting knowledge exchange between public sector research and business. The team were also finalists for Team of the Year at the PraxisAuril awards, which focus on best practice knowledge exchange between academics and business.

Elsewhere in Business Engagement, **Richard Fox**, Strategic Business Engagement Partner won a Chairman's award from BAE Systems, based on his involvement in their successful Academia Innovation Framework.

## CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY

2018–19 was a pilot year of activity for **Community Living**, a team tasked with making Selly Oak a better place to live and work. In this time, Community Engagement Manager, **Claire Bent**, has been appointed to the National Steering Board of the UK Town and Gown Association, a group for professionals managing off-campus relations in university communities.

## WELCOMING WINNERS

Staff at **Winterbourne House and Gardens** received an Attractions Accolade from Visit England in the Welcome category, one of only four attractions in the West Midlands to be given this award, which recognises outstanding experiences provided by attractions across England. **Anna Fawcett**, Visitor Services Manager, said: *'We pride ourselves on giving customers an excellent level of service, and to receive this from a national body is something we are incredibly proud of.'*

## ENHANCING EQUALITY

In September 2018, the **Rainbow Network** for LGBTQ staff and PhD students were shortlisted in the European Diversity Awards. This prestigious awards ceremony was established in 2011 to promote and encourage the achievements of individuals and organisations across Europe undertaking work in the area of equality, diversity, and inclusion. The

Rainbow Network made it onto a shortlist of ten out of over 90 nominations in the category 'Outstanding Network Group of the Year', and they were delighted to represent the University at the ceremony at the Natural History Museum in November. At the National University Football and Futsal Conference in June, the **Women's Football Grassroots Hub** team, led by Football Development Officer **Josie Cottam**, won the Outstanding Contribution to Community Engagement award, for its Disability Day Care programme. This initiative provides football sessions for adults and children with disabilities, and was recognised for being an inclusive, innovative and welcoming programme.

## SPORTS STARS

It has been an exceptional year for sporting success at the University. In December 2018, England Athletics announced that Birmingham will be the first university to receive a Gold standard Charter Mark, a new initiative awarded to outstanding institutions that provide a high-quality athletics experience and a reflection of the outstanding programme and facilities offered by the University.

The University's outdoor pursuits centre in the Lake District, the **Raymond Priestley Centre**, received an accreditation of 'Excellent' in their Gold standard for quality of provision for outdoor learning from the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres.

## LITTLE LEARNERS

The National Day Nurseries Association recognised two of the University's nurseries, each placing as runner-up in the 2019 awards. **The Elms Day Nursery** team were narrowly pipped to the post for the Team Development Award, recognising their extensive support for career development and staff wellbeing, while **Emily Grainger**, Acting Nursery Manager of The Oaks Day Nursery, received the runner-up certificate for Manager of the Year, for inspiring her team during a challenging year.

## EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYABILITY

The National Undergraduate Employability Awards celebrate the successes of students, employers and universities in regards to internships, placements and graduate schemes. On the tenth anniversary of the awards, **Careers Network** won Best Careers Service. The judging panel praised the efforts of the work experience team, including initiatives and funding to support Widening Participation students, having a dedicated team of college internship officers, alumni mentoring and our commitment against unpaid internships. The award was presented by Dame Kelly Holmes to members of the work experience team, including **Kam Manku**, Senior Internship Officer, and **Lizzie Argirou**, College Internship Officer for Arts and Law.

# ONES TO WATCH

Emerging talent at the University who have already made a significant contribution in their chosen fields of study.

**Linden Thomas** was appointed as President of the Birmingham Law Society. At just 34, she is believed to be the youngest person to lead the Birmingham Law Society in its 200-year history, and only the sixth woman to do so.

**Professor Konstantinos Nikolopoulos** received the 2019 UK Blavatnik Award for Young Scientists in the United Kingdom: Physical Sciences & Engineering. Kostas was recognised for leadership of and personal contributions to a subgroup of approximately 100 physicists in ATLAS at CERN that made key contributions to the first observation of the Higgs boson.

**Dr Daniel Gibbs** and **Dr Iain Johnston** both received the Presidents Medal from Society of Experimental Biology, an award given annually to young scientists of outstanding merit.

**Dr Marina Soltan** received the National First prize and National Foundation Doctors' Presentation Day and British Cardiothoracic Society runner-up prize this year. Dr Soltan was awarded these prestigious prizes for her work with supervisors **Dr Liz Sapay** and **Professor David Thickett** on the national #CPRinSchools programme.

# FINE FELLOWS

Academics from the University have been conferred fellowships and to a number of distinguished and prestigious scholarly societies.

- **Dr Jonathan Catling**, Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA)
- **Dr John Curnow**, Principal Fellow of the HEA
- **Dr Andrew Quinn**, Principal Fellow of the HEA and Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA)
- **Professor Peter Gardner**, Senior Fellowship of the HEA
- **Professor David Hannah**, Wolfson Fellowship
- **Doctor Jackie Chappell**, Royal Society Industry Fellowship
- **Professor Gurdyal Besra**, Royal Society Fellowship
- **Dr Andy Coney**, Fellow of the Physiological Society
- **Professor Arri Coomarasamy**, Academy of Medical Sciences Fellowship
- **Professor Mark NK Saunders**, Fellowship of the Academy of Social Sciences
- **Professor David Bailey**, UKICE Senior Fellow
- **Dr Richard Shorten**, Leverhulme Trust Research Fellowship
- **Professor Xiao-Ping Zhang**, Foreign Fellow at the Chinese Society of Electrical Engineering
- **Dr Catherine Smith**, Software Sustainability Institute Fellowship

## Beacon HEA Professional Recognition Scheme:

- Senior Fellow: **Sally Hobday**, **Umme Salma Husein**, **Karin Bottom**
- Fellow: **Sveasti-Eleni Veziriannidou**, **Leonard Kiarago**, **Haro Karkour**, **Elizabeth Chilton**
- Associate Fellow: **Christopher Featherstone**
- **Professor Duncan Shepherd** became the 100th member of staff to achieve Senior Fellow of AdvanceHE through the Birmingham Beacon Scheme



## STRATEGIC INFLUENCE

The quality of staff at the University can often lead to requests for their expertise to be shared and utilised by other high-profile organisations such as businesses, government departments and charities. Here are some recent examples.

- Four UK funding bodies appointed **Professor Vivien Lowndes**, Professor of Public Policy, as chair of Sub-panel 19: Politics and International Studies for REF 2021, a role which will ensure consistent assessment standards within the sub-panel. The chair will also play a key role in engaging with the UK higher education sector on the REF.
- **Professor Tiffany Stern**, Fellow of the Shakespeare Institute and Professor of Shakespeare and Early Modern Drama, has been elected as a Fellow of the British Academy, in recognition of her research in Shakespeare and early modern drama.
- Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Head of College of Life and Environmental Sciences, **Professor Laura Green OBE**, was awarded an Honorary Life Membership with the Society of Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine (SVEPM).
- **Professor Jon Glasby** has joined the Board of the Birmingham Children's Trust, responsible for child protection, adoption and fostering, family support, youth offending, and services for children in care.
- **Professor James Arthur** is going to be part of a new Department of Education advisory group looking at Character Education to provide a framework to help schools consider how delivering these five foundations can best build character.
- **Dr Karen Newbigging** has been appointed as Deputy Director for the Institute of Mental Health.
- **Professor Paul Jackson** has been appointed a Commonwealth Commissioner to the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission, and a member of the United Nations Committee of Experts on Public Administration (UNCEPA).
- **Dr Jonathan Radcliffe** joined the Energy Strategic Advisory Committee of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) to develop, implement and modify plans for its Energy Programme, which has a project portfolio of over £350 million. Dr Radcliffe has also been appointed as the Specialist Adviser to the House of Commons Select Committee for Science and Technology, for its inquiry on Technologies for meeting Clean Growth emissions reduction targets.
- **Professor Janet Lord** has recently been appointed as a Special Advisor to a House of Lords Science and Technology Committee inquiry into Healthy Ageing.

## OUR SUCCESS CONTINUES...

Buzz is pleased to highlight accolades received by staff across the University that have been recognised for their skill, hard work and dedication. We recognise that we may not have captured everyone, but we hope this list demonstrates the breadth and scale of our achievements.

- **Professor Nic Cheeseman** and **Dr Susan Dodsworth** won the prestigious Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) Celebrating Impact Prize for their research on strengthening elections and accountability in new democracies.
- **Professor Sara Kenyon, the Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Birmingham** were awarded the prestigious Meridian Award at the Meridian Celebration of Innovation Awards 2019 for their groundbreaking maternity ward triage system.
- **Professor Xiaohui Liu** has been elected Treasurer of the Academy of International Business (UK & Ireland Chapter).
- **Professor Oded Shenkar** and **Professor Xiaohui Liu** have been awarded the Gold and Silver Medals respectively from the *Journal of International Business Studies*.
- **Professor John Child** received the John Dunning Lifetime Achievement Award from the Academy of International Business UK & Ireland Chapter at its annual conference in Brighton.
- **The Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology** won the award for outstanding teaching from the Social Policy Association.
- **Professor Jan Bebbington** has won the AAAJ's Outstanding Paper Award 2018 in what is named as the Mary Parker Follett Awards.
- **Professor Jenny Phillimore** was selected for the prestigious Miegunyah Distinguished Visiting Fellowship Program at the University of Melbourne. The programme invites highly distinguished academics from institutions across the world to visit the University and share their work.

- **Professor Isabelle Szmigin** has been named a trustee at Alcohol Change for her research around alcohol consumption, social norms and marketing.
- **Dr Ruth Riley** developed a performance art piece to share the stories of doctors interviewed for her National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)-funded case study on doctors' mental health, as a novel way to raise awareness of mental health issues and create impact from her research.
- **Dr Alice Turner** has been appointed as a member of the Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Prioritisation Committee: Hospital based care.
- **Professor Emma Frew** has been invited to join the All-Party Parliamentary Group's Strategic Council on Obesity.
- **Professor Sudha Sundar** is included in the India Inc. Top 100 – published as part of UK-India Week 2019 and listing key influencers across arts, culture, and media that help make the UK-India relationship so successful.
- **Dr Phillip Nicolson** received the 2019 National Institute of Health Research/British Society for Haematology Researcher of the Year Award. Dr Nicolson chairs the national trainee research network, HaemSTAR, which has been instrumental in increasing recruitment to numerous clinical studies, and has successfully gained funding for a very large national audit of treatment of immune thrombocytopenia purpura, a condition that can result in excessive bleeding.
- **Nina Vyas** achieved third place in the innovation category of the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council's annual national science photography competition with an image entitled 'Up, up and away', which captured cavitation.
- **Dr Adam Ledger** and his company 'The Bone Ensemble' were awarded a grant from Arts Council England to support a new show that encourages its audience to engage with crucial environmental issues.
- **Professor John Holmes** was awarded the British Society for Literature and Science book prize for the best book in the field of literature and science for his book 'The Pre-Raphaelites and Science'.
- **Dr Geoff Brown** was named Editor-in-Chief for *International Journal of Molecular Science*.
- **Dr Keith Brain** was elected International Secretary at the 2019 ISAN Congress in Los Angeles. The International Society for Autonomic Neuroscience is the primary international scientific society covering Autonomic Neuroscience.
- **BactiVac** – winner in the Research category in the Antibiotic Guardian Awards 2019. This winning entry recognises the Network's efforts to address the global antimicrobial resistance challenge by developing vaccines to prevent disease and therefore reducing the need to use antimicrobials.
- **Professor Phil Newsome**, elected Secretary General of the European Association for the Study of the Liver.
- **William McIver** received Best Medical Student abstract at the British Thoracic Society 2019. William is a medical student who did his BMedSci project with the Birmingham Acute Care Research Group this year.
- **Professor Wiebke Arlt** appointed Editor-in-Chief of the prestigious *European Journal of Endocrinology* (EJE).
- **Professor Alexandra Sinclair** and her research group formed a NASA delegation visit which significantly raised the profile and publicity of Birmingham Medical School, her research, the Institute of Metabolism and Systems Research and the University as a whole.
- **Dr Caroline Gorvin** received the Leadership & Development award from the Society for Endocrinology.
- **Professor Gurdyal Besra** was awarded the 2020 Morton Lecture by the Biochemical Society in recognition of his outstanding contribution to lipid biochemistry.
- **Professor Laura Piddock** was the recipient of the 2019 Garrod Medal awarded by the British Society for Antimicrobial Chemotherapy for her work in tackling antimicrobial resistance.
- **Dr Lauren Thomas-Seale** was awarded an Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) new investigator award with Dr Rosemary Dyson to develop novel design techniques for additive manufacture inspired by the growth of the foetus and plants.
- **Birmingham Centre for Railway Research and Education (BCRRE)** partnered with Abtus Ltd to research and create a new state-of-the-art railway track measuring device. The partnership won in the small-scale project category at the Railway Industry Innovation Awards. The resulting product is now being used on British railways.
- **Kevin Blacktop**, Head of Delivery at the BCRRE has been appointed as Institution of Mechanical Engineers Worcester Area Committee Chair.
- **Professor Nicole Metje** recently won, for the second year running, the ICE West Midlands Awards in the 'Studies and Research' category for the Quantum Technology – Potential for Railway Infrastructure (QT-PRI) project, together with project partners RSK, Atkins and Network Rail.
- **Professor Joan Duda** received a Distinguished Scholar Award from The North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity. Professor Duda also received an Honorary Doctorate Degree from the University of Thessaly, Greece.
- **Professor Suzanne Higgs** received the Hoebel Prize for research from the Society for the Study of Ingestive Behaviour.
- **Dr Estrella Luna Diez** and **Dr Philippa Borrill** were recipients of the Rank Prize Fund New Lecturer in Nutrition Award in 2018. Only four awards of its kind are made in the UK, two of which came to the School of Biosciences.
- **Doctor Juliane Kloess** was awarded the Qualitative Methods in Psychology (QMIP) Early Career Researcher Prize for exceptional use of qualitative methods.
- **Dr Sam Giles** was the recipient of the 2019 Lyell Fund from the Geological Society.
- **Dr Edward Day** was named a Drug Recovery Champion by the UK government for ensuring the best treatment and support for those recovering from drug misuse.

# transforming our campus

## Campus developments: new facilities for the new year

It has been a busy summer for the team across Estates, and construction and design partners. The campus development programme continues at a pace, with many projects coming to fruition.

Significantly, the Business School extension is now complete, and in the coming weeks, staff and students will be able to start using the new facilities, which support the continued success and expansion of the School. The extension brings together all Edgbaston-based Business School staff into one location for the first time in a high-quality working environment. This supports the creation of an intellectually vibrant research community and enhances cross-disciplinary research. It will provide high-quality research space for some of the School's key research centres and facilitate their external engagement activities. It's not just about staff, with the development providing high-quality study space within University House, the creation of a new student hub providing a 'one-stop shop' for student enquiries and upgraded catering facilities.

Work is complete on a rejuvenated 54 Pritchatts Road as a new home for the Institute for Global Innovation and Institute of Advanced Studies. Providing a modern office environment, the facilities have been specially designed to promote collaborative working, which is critical to these cross-college institutes.

The newly refurbished Frankland welcomed staff and students earlier this term, who are now able to use music practice rooms, a state-of-the-art recording studio, teaching spaces and 60 academic offices.



54 Pritchatts Road refurb



Artist's impression of the new University Station



Artist's impression of the new University Station

The summer was also a chance for us to work with the West Midlands Rail Executive and Transport for West Midlands to get views from staff and students about the replacement for University Station. This is an exciting project, which will see a vastly enhanced station for campus delivered by 2022. The consultation is now closed, but you can find out more at: [www.tfwm.org.uk/development/infrastructure/university-station](http://www.tfwm.org.uk/development/infrastructure/university-station)



It's not just about the construction process, but also about what goes into buildings. To that end, the University's new furniture supplier is now live, with a showroom in the Aston Webb Building for those looking to try before they buy. Furniture from Elite will help create better working environments for all campus users, with high-quality products that have been sustainably sourced and marketed. To visit the showroom, contact Head of Space Management Lisa Haynes Truscott on [l.h.truscott@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.h.truscott@bham.ac.uk) and to order, Log in to **Core > go to Procurement > Purchase Requisitions > Shop by Category > Science Warehouse.**



Alongside this, the autumn programme for the Green Heart Festival is now live at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheartautumn](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/greenheartautumn) following a successful summer season. The events cover everything from exhibitions to performances and workshops, across all the colleges. The rollout of the campus map app continues – check it out at [www.birmingham.ac.uk/maps](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/maps)

## Chancellor's column



This summer, I had the opportunity to visit the University of Birmingham Dubai. What I saw at our temporary campus was well above expectations; having been involved with this project from the very beginning and seen the building that was allocated to us as a temporary campus to start with – we have transformed it into an impressive and welcoming building for our staff and students.

We have completed our first academic year successfully and the number of students for the second year is growing multi-fold.

I also saw that the building of our new campus had already started – this will be ready in 2021, for 4,500 students.

Dubai is truly an international city with people from all corners of the world living and working there and the University of Birmingham Dubai, in the makeup of its students and faculty, mirrors this completely.

The University of Birmingham has always been a very international university with a significant proportion of our students, faculty and staff from all over the world.

Our Dubai campus is going to increase our international reach enormously, which in turn will increase our alumni base globally even more.

The University of Birmingham Dubai will also offer our students in Dubai the opportunity to conduct part of their studies in the UK, as well as the opportunity for faculty exchange, which is already taking place.

We are the first Russell Group university to open a campus in Dubai and I believe that this pioneering spirit which our university has had from the very beginning of its foundation leads us to, being boldly ahead of the times and paving the way forward.

Our alumni base of 300,000 around the world, in virtually every country, is now going to get even stronger.

I am looking forward to returning to the Dubai campus in October to make my 'maiden speech' there!

*Lord Bilimoria is the founder and chairman of Cobra Beer, Chancellor of the University of Birmingham and the founding Chairman of the UK-India Business Council.*

## CAMPUS CURIOSITIES

### What is it?

Detail of *The Blue Cloud* by John Walker, 1996, Research and Cultural Collections

### Where is it?

Arts Building Foyer (R16 on campus map)

The richly allusive imagery in *The Blue Cloud* explores the cyclical nature of life and death. Painted passages from poems by Wilfred Owen and Lord Byron denote departure and loss. These are balanced by the repetition of speckled eucalyptus seeds, a symbol of rebirth. The seeds resemble clay vessels made by Indigenous Australians which hold the departed soul. Some of the forms appear to go outside of their pre-defined frame, suggesting a plane of experience beyond that we can see.

A stream emanates from the passage by Owen, leading to a waterfall which cascades down the side of the mural into the earth. The combination of water and earth create mud, referring to the form of a mudslide in Vermont. Walker saw paint as 'inert mud', which is used to embody feeling, form and beauty.

Born in Birmingham, Walker was a frequent visitor to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts as a child. He attended Birmingham Art School in the 1950s and then studied in Paris. The University awarded him an Honorary Doctorate of Letters in 1994 in recognition of his international success. In celebration of this, the University commissioned Walker to create a mural. He came to Birmingham in the summer of 1996, transforming a seminar room into a studio to complete and install the piece.

### Find out more

An exhibition of John Walker's works will be on display in the Rotunda Gallery, Aston Webb Building from 18 November. To find out more visit [www.birmingham.ac.uk/johnwalker](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/johnwalker)



# FOUNDERS' AWARDS

*'I find the way in which the awards for outstanding research etc, are done is superb. Some of the winners rarely leave their laboratories or fieldwork yet make such important contributions to society. This is their public reward for so much private sheer hard work and dedication. Quite moving!'*

**Professor Colin Diamond CBE, Professor of Educational Leadership, School of Education**



During the Chancellor's Dinner, some of the very best academic work in our university is recognised with the presentation of the Founders' Awards for Excellence. The awards are named after some of our most influential founders and benefactors, and demonstrate their principles and vision of a 'great school of universal instruction'.

## THE JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN AWARD FOR ACADEMIC ADVANCEMENT

**Professor Peter Brocklehurst (right in picture above), Professor of Women's Health and Director of the Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit (BCTU), Institute of Applied Health Research**  
Peter has been producing evidence from clinical trials and epidemiological research which have changed clinical practice and health policy for over 25 years. In the last 12 months, Peter's achievements include the leadership of the Birmingham Clinical Trials Unit resulting in 13 new grant awards valued in excess of £17.5 million.

**And Professor Richard Butler (L), Professor of Palaeobiology, School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences**  
Richard's research made significant advances within his field including major contributions to transforming our understanding of the origins and early evolution of dinosaurs, and shifting prevailing paradigms on how biodiversity has changed on land over the last 400 million years.

## THE CHARLES BEALE AWARD FOR POLICY ADVANCEMENT

**Professor Laura Piddock, Professor of Microbiology, Institute of Microbiology and Infection**

Laura is an international leader renowned for her research on the mode of action and resistance to antibiotics. As the only female president of the British Society of Antimicrobial Chemotherapy, she produced the report which led to increased global attention on the crisis due to drug-resistant bacterial infections.

## THE JOSEPH MASON AWARD FOR BUSINESS ADVANCEMENT

**Professor Philip Newsome, Professor of Experimental Hepatology, Institute of Immunology and Immunotherapy**  
Phil is a world-acknowledged hepatologist known for his application of cellular therapies for treatment of liver diseases. His expertise has attracted substantial interest from industry with increasing investment to his laboratory and the University's Advanced Therapies Facility. The extent and impact of his engagement with industry are substantial and continues to grow.

## THE ASTON WEBB AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EARLY-CAREER ACADEMIC

**Dr Rachel Humphris, Lecturer, Department of Social Policy, Sociology and Criminology**

The significance of Rachel's research has helped to place the University at the global forefront of migration studies. She has extended her research on the effects of national borders extending into everyday lives of migrants, and her Leverhulme-funded research project explores how cities are countering this trend by establishing themselves as 'sanctuary cities'.

**Ensure the best of Birmingham is showcased at the Founders' Awards 2020. Nominations open in January.**

